

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 MC-02 ACDA-05 IO-10 /088 W

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R 041125Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6990

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9944

3.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, UK, FR, GW

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT SADAT'S FORTHCOMING ITINERARY REFLECTS EGYPT'S
PRIORITIES IN WEST

1. PRESIDENT SADAT'S FORTHCOMING TRAVEL SCHEDULE, WHETHER BY
ACCIDENT OR DESIGN, APPEARS TO ACCURATELY REFLECT CURRENT GOE
PRIORITIES VIS-A-VIS THE WEST. ENTIRE TRIP, OF COURSE, BUILT
AROUND TEN-DAY VISIT TO US, THE COUNTRY THAT HOLDS, IN SADAT'S
WORDS, "99 IF NOT 100 PERCENT OF THE CARDS" REQUIRED FOR ME
SETTLEMENT.

2. PRESS TREATMENT AND COMMENTS BY EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS INDICATE
THAT VISIT TO GREAT BRITAIN, AFTER DEPARTURE FROM US, LARGELY
PRO FORMA AND IN RESPONSE TO LONG-STANDING BRITISH INVITATION.
HOWEVER, IMPORTANT ARMS PURCHASES MAY BE DISCUSSED. POLITICALLY,
ATTITUDE IN CAIRO APPEARS TO BE THAT UK VISIT PROVIDES
OPPORTUNITY TO FULFILL OBLIGATION TO COUNTRY WHICH GOE WOULD
RATHER NOT OFFEND, BUT WHICH IS NOT CENTRAL TO EGYPTIAN POLICY
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CONSIDERATIONS.

3. ON OTHER HAND, CHOICE OF FRANCE AS OVERNIGHT STOP-OVER ON WAY TO US SEEMS TO INDICATE GOE'S HIGH REGARD FOR FRANCE AS MOST LIKELY MAJOR NON-SOVIET SOURCE OF ARMS. VISIT CAN PROVIDE USEFUL FOLLOW-UP TO ASHRAF MARWAN'S SEPTEMBER 25 VISIT TO FRENCH MOD IN HIS CAPACITY BOTH AS GOE REPRESENTATIVE AND ARAB MILITARY INDUSTRIES ORGANIZATION PRESIDENT TO NEGOTIATE MAJOR ARMS PURCHASES, INCLUDING F-1 MIRAGES, ROCKETRY, AND ADVANCED ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT. EGYPT CLEARLY PLACES FRANCE DIRECTLY BEHIND US IN ITS WESTERN STRATEGY.

4. CONVERSELY, CANCELLATION OF PROJECTED SADAT VISIT TO FEDERAL REPUBLIC ORIGINALLY SLATED FOR NOVEMBER APPEARS TO REFLECT RELATIVE UNIMPORTANCE OF BONN POLITICALLY, IF NOT ECONOMICALLY, IN CURRENT GOE THINKING. FACT THAT WEST GERMANY EMBASSY IN CAIRO RATHER MIFFED AT CANCELLATION OF SADAT VISIT AND EGYPTIAN SLOWNESS IN SETTING NEW DATE FOR BONN VISIT COMBINE TO GIVE IMPRESSION HERE THAT EGYPT, ALREADY HEAVILY COMMITTED TO FOLLOWING POLITICAL LEAD FROM WASHINGTON, CURRENTLY DEVOTING LESS TIME TO CULTIVATION OF WASHINGTON'S ALLIES.

5. NEVERTHELESS, THE STOP IN FRANCE AND VISIT TO BRITAIN AT EACH END OF US TRIP SERVE TO POINT UP RELATIONSHIPS EGYPT HAS WITH EUROPEAN POWERS AND TO DISCOUNT CURRENT RADICAL ARAB ALLEGATIONS THAT SADAT IS US STOOGES.
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